

SWIPES AND BACK STABBING?

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Dr David Wright has been severely criticised and abused by readers of his articles about composers. He has been accused of taking swipes at composers and stabbing them in the back.

Taking swipes and back stabbing are expressions of underhand and malicious acts that are a betrayal of a person and intending to cause that person harm.

This cannot be true of Dr Wright and, even if it were, you cannot betray or harm the dead.

He wrote many articles for the website Music Web International and the essays were admired highly and went a very long way to establishing this site. The site was so pleased with these contributions that they gave Dr Wright an ex gratia payment of £500.

But years before this, one of his articles appeared on the Music International web site without his knowledge or permission and that constitutes a serious breach of International Copyright law.

A few years ago, the webmaster removed all of Dr Wright's articles from his website explaining that other contributors said that they would not write any more for this site unless Dr Wright's articles were removed. The webmaster, Len Mullenger, said that the articles were removed because they constantly took swipes at Schubert, Elgar, Chopin and Britten and this was back stabbing.

Analysts have gone through his 100 articles on composers and there are only 24 brief comments about Elgar. And all the quotes are relevant and the quotes are from other people other than the author of the article.

The Sir Ivor Atkins article has many references to Elgar since they worked together for many years and, as Dr Wright has the original of letters between these two musicians, Elgar's character is revealed with his bad manners and his navy blue knickers fetish, his atrocious voyeurism and that he was a loathsome person. All the quotes are from reliable sources and none of them is an original quote from Dr Wright although he does express his dislike for some works and he is entitled to say that.

It is said that the author should have written only about the music and not the man's lifestyle. How can you write a biographical article without details of his life? Dr Wright was censured because he wrote that Gesualdo was triple murderer, including the murder of a child, but this is true and relevant to a study of Gesualdo.

In an article about Rosalind Ellicott, there is the Parry's quote that he preferred Ellicott's orchestration to that of Elgar is made and that Parry also referred to Elgar's pomposity. These are not swipes or back stabbing by Dr Wright.

In the James Brown article there is his quote that he changed his mind about Elgar.

Andrew Downes's speaks of noise in Elgar's music. Again this is a quote not Dr Wright back stabbing!

Alan Rawsthorne said that Elgar's Cello Concerto made him ill. This is a well-known and established fact so what is wrong in Dr Wright quoting it since it is relevant in context.

In the article on Schubert his weaknesses as a composer are compared to Elgar's. It is an interesting and valid comparison.

In the Searle article reference is made to Boult's famous remark: "If Elgar's music is played badly, you blame

the orchestra; if it is played well, you blame Elgar". This is relevant as it shows Boult's attitude to music he was not in sympathy with, and we cannot blame Dr Wright for what Boult said.

This is also quoted in Vaughan Williams's article as it is relevant to the text. Other quotes from RVW about his dislike for Elgar could have been made but they were not.

In the Sessions article there is a brief reference to those who 'did not lick the boots of Elgar'.

In the Standford article there is a quote from Elgar. It is just the statement of a fact.

In the Frank Stiles there is yet another legitimate quote which is not offensive.

In the article, John Veale as I knew him, it is said that Boult did not like Elgar's music which is true. The absurd quote that Elgar's mantle fell on Walton is mentioned. These are quotes that are not by Dr Wright.

In the article on Victory, Rawsthorne was told not to write music like Elgar. This is a quote from another source.

In the Walton article, it is said Elgar was deified, which is true, and that Elgar's Cello Concerto is inferior to Walton's which is a view expressed by many and there is the claim of Walton's devotion to Elgar which is completely untrue. In 1960, Walton said that the greatest composer of the 20th century was Shostakovich and right at the other end of the spectrum was Elgar.

In the essay on Vaughan Williams, reference is made to Elgar's arrogance and to his narcissism. These assessments are quite correct. The Cello Concerto being poor is an opinion held by many musicians and that Elgar was deified is also true.

David Wright's article refers to Elgar's letters in his possession which verify the comments he makes.

Is telling the truth swipes or back stabbing? And remember the quotes are from other sources!

Of course, the article on Elgar deals with his many indiscretions and presents Elgar as a human being, not as a God to be deified.

Celebrity worship is odious.

In the 100 articles there are only ten reference to Britten

In the J C Bach article it is accurately recorded that the choirboys laughed so much at the premiere of Bach work that they wet themselves and Britten wanted to stage this work to see if modern choirboys would do likewise.

Britten loved the Mozart songs about anal intercourse and that is sick to decent people.

Britten copied Rebikov in the design of children's opera.

Brief reference is made to Britten's effeminacy, his conceit and arrogance, his nasty character (testified by almost everyone who knew Britten),his homosexuality, pederasty and bestiality, his admitted sexual abuse of underage boys and that he also was deified. Britten was a loathsome character and yet he is honoured by many and even made a Lord.

Of the 100 articles, there are four references to Schubert where James Brown says his late sonatas are too long and where Adrian Vernon Fish calls most of his songs dreary.

In the Karl Amadeus Hartmann article the German composer said that Schubert only wrote pretty tunes.

A stab in the back by Dr Wright but a quote from a professional musician?

Boult hated the ninth symphony of Schubert. This is a fact and relevant to the article.

Of course, the biographical article tells his life story with all its flaws. Is it taking swipes when Dr Wright tells us that all of Schubert's theatrical works were flops and that Schubert died of advanced venereal disease? If these facts were omitted would this biography of Schubert be complete?

In the 100 articles there are four references to Chopin.

He was blatantly anti-Semitic. This is well-known and true, so why hide it?

There is a comparison with Liszt and two comparisons with Pachelbel but they are not swipes or back stabbing merely comparisons.

The biographical article about Chopin tells the truth about him which can be verified.

We cannot see that there are any taking swipes or back stabbing. All the comments are from other people, not Dr Wright. He tells the truth and writes compelling and important essays, some about composers that, otherwise, could be forgotten forever.

David's articles then went on Jos Smeets site where he received the most appalling abuse, that he should be stricken down with the terminal VD that killed Schubert and burn in hell.

The problem is not Dr Wright but the people who adore these composers and will not have anything said against them even though it is the truth. As Dr Wright has said, "People would rather believe a beautiful lie than an ugly truth!".

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